

**Illinois Early Learning Council**  
**Program Standards and Quality Coordination and Communication Committee**  
**January 3, 2013**  
**Telenet: 10:30 AM – 12 PM**

**Attendees:**

Ann Smithson	Faith Arnold	Joyce Weiner	Rachel Burnell
Anna Perry	Gail Conway	Judy Harper	Rebecca Livengood
April Janney	Gail Nelson	Karen McCarthy	Rhonda Clark
Beatrice Nichols	Gayle Mindes	Kathleen Millano	Samantha Aigner-Treworgy
Beth Knight	George Davis	Kelly Woodlock	Sara Robbins
Brenda Lee Smith	Gina Ruther	Lana Lopez	Serah Fatani
Brian Michalski	Harriette Herrera	Laura Bell	Sessy Nyman
Brynn Seibert	Holly Knicker	Lauri Rhodes	Sharyl Robins
Cass Wolfe	Jacob Vigil	Laurie Stoltz	Shawn Hoeft
Cerathel Burnett	Jamilah Jor'dan	Laurie Walker	Stepanie Bynum
Chris Rosean	Jan Maruna	Leslie Janes	Sue Jackson
Christine Ryan	Janice Moenster	Linda Saterfield	Sue Moustakas
Christine Westerlund	Jean Anderson	Lou Ann Burton	Susan Adjorjan
Cindy Mahr	Jeanna Capito	Lus Maria Solis	Susan Rohrbough
Cindy Zumwalt	Jennifer Alexander	Lynnette Chandler	Tammy Notter
Deb McCarrel	Jill Bella	Madelyn Cancel Hanieh	Theresa Hawley
Deb Widenhofer	Jill Caulkins	Malia Owens	Toni Williams
Diana Rosenbrock	Jon Korfmacher	Melissa S. Johnson	Vanessa Rich
Elissa Gitlow	Joni Scritchlow	Peggy Patten	Vicki Thompson
			Vivian Miller

**Welcome – Jan Maruna and Jeanna Capito**

- Jeanna Capito called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

**Illinois Early Learning Council (IELC) Restructure – Jeanna Capito**

- Theresa Hawley shared the recent Illinois Early Learning Council (IELC) restructure as outlined in the meeting materials.
- The ELC strategic planning process continued into 2011-2012, considering a restructure of committees. Discussions of the numerous ELC committees and sub-committees and duplication of work led to the decision to pare down the ELC to four committees:
  - Program Standards and Quality
  - System Integration and Alignment
  - Data, Research, and Evaluation
  - Family and Community Engagement
- On the restructure chart, the Home Visiting Task Force is included, but appears to the left since it is a “stand- alone committee” with a different funding structure.
- The work of each of these four committees should tie to the Early Learning Challenge, Race to the Top Grant.

- The various advisory bodies which will inform the work of the Program Standards and Quality Committee include:
  - IDHS Child Care Advisory Council
  - Ad Hoc QRIS
  - Illinois DCFS Licensing Advisory Committee
  - Professional Development Advisory Council
  - Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention
    - The PSQ Communication & Coordination group meets quarterly.
    - The Program Standards and Quality Committee will meet quarterly.
- An interagency team comprised of Linda Saterfield (IDHS), Reyna Hernandez (ISBE) and Cindy Zumwalt (ISBE) with IDCFS representation will meet monthly to ensure integration of work.
  - This interagency team will:
    - Identify overarching goals
    - Avoid duplication of work
    - Look for opportunities for collaboration
    - Ensure work is in progress and moving forward

#### **Information Updates – Jan Maruna**

- Feedback on the restructure process will be critical as the Program Standards and Quality Committee moves forward.
  - A survey is forthcoming and will gain feedback about the level of understanding of the restructure process and reflect on the Race to the Top and QRIS redesign.
- Members were encouraged to review the Race to the Top Grant (posted on the OECD website) as goals and timelines will impact the work of the various committees.
- INCCRRA
  - The September 2012 IDCFS rule for Registry Membership has had a positive impact on the Registry, increasing membership to 32,405 members as of December 31, 2012.
  - The number of Authorized Entities for trainings and professional development has also increased to 27.
- IDHS – *Linda Saterfield IDHS Child Care Advisory Council*
  - The restructure of the Great Start Scale being embedded with credentials is a priority.
- ISBE – *Cindy Zumwalt*
  - The structure of the Professional Educator Licensure was announced by State Superintendent Chris Koch at the December ISBE Board Meeting. Grade configurations:
    - Birth through second grade
    - First through sixth grade
    - Fifth through Eighth grade
    - Ninth through Twelfth grade
  - It is very exciting and encouraging to have two years shaved off the Elementary Education Licensure and Kindergarten with Early Childhood Education Licensure.
    - It is promising to have birth to age three included in the licensure.
  - Current teachers will be grandfathered into the new system.
  - Announcement of Requests for Sealed Proposals (RFSP) Grant, related to the monitoring of Prevention Initiative programs.
    - Deadline is February 28, 2013. Please see the following link for more information:
    - [http://www.isbe.state.il.us/funding\\_opps/htmls/rfsp.htm](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/funding_opps/htmls/rfsp.htm)

- Professional Development Advisory Council (PDAC) – *Cass Wolfe and Deb Widenhofer*
  - PDAC is restructuring its committees - process began in the summer of 2012.
  - Program Quality and Standards Committee members wishing to become more engaged and actively involved were encouraged to join a PDAC committee.
  - The work of the PDAC committees will feed back into the Illinois Early Learning Council Program Quality and Standards Committee.
  - PDAC's Financial Supports Committee will join with Program Standards and Quality for an Ad Hoc Workforce Compensation Study.
- Ad Hoc Groups:
  - Gateways Infant Toddler Benchmark Review
    - An Ad Hoc Committee was formed; recommended revisions are in the PDAC approval process.
      - This is an example of how the work of PSQ will work through other Advisory Committees and build on members with Infant Toddler expertise.
  - QRIS Work Group – *Theresa Hawley*
    - The RTT Phase 2 called for a rebuild of the QRIS System. Work began in August 2012.
    - Please visit the Office of Early Childhood website for detailed information on this proposed new system, which consists of the five levels of quality.
      - Level 1 – Licensing
      - Level 2 – Training/Quality
      - Level 3 – Self Assessment
      - Level 4 – Verified/Accreditation
      - Level 5 – Excellence (Broken into six areas of excellence)
        - Infant Toddler
        - Preschool
        - Family Engagement
        - Cultural, Linguistic and Ability Diversity (CLAD)
        - Program Administration
        - Special Needs/Inclusion
    - QRIS Level 5 approval work should be completed later in January.
    - New QRIS levels are to roll out in FY14.
- RTT Grant
  - Work is underway to review the proposed work plan with the federal government.
  - Contractors are working to get systems in place.
  - OECD is hiring for new positions through RTT. The grant has the full job description.
    - Workforce Development Policy Director
    - Data and Outcomes Manager
    - QRIS Policy Director
- Early Childhood Capital Improvement Grant
  - It was announced in mid-December that fourteen grants statewide were awarded for new/improved ECE facilities. The following centers were awarded grants:
    - Brown Bear Daycare and Learning Center – Harvard
    - Chicago Urban Day School – Chicago-Englewood
    - Christopher House – Chicago-Belmont Cragin

- Dolton Park – Dolton
- Harlem Community Center Hand n Hand Child Care Center – Loves Park
- Keeneyville School District 20 – Hanover Park
- Korean American Community Services – Chicago – Irving Park
- Lighthouse Early Learning – Cahokia
- One Hope United – Joliet
- Roseland Community Good New Daycare Center – Chicago Roseland
- Through a Child's Eye – Cicero
- Tiny Tots Villa – Chicago-Chatham
- Tom Thumb Community Childcare Center – Carpentersville
- YWCA Kankakee - Kankakee
- For more information please visit:  
<http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Documents/Press%20Releases/12.19.12%20Early%20Childhood%20construction%20grant%20LIST.pdf>

#### **Other Items**

- Question was raised about the accessibility to information regarding the RTT and the ELC and its Committees:
  - Members were encouraged to visit the Office of Early Childhood Development website often as updates and new information will be available as RTT moves forward.
  - Committee information is posted regularly
  - Members were also encouraged to look for and complete the PSQ survey that will be shared at the end of January.
- The Gateways to Opportunity Higher Education Forum offered in collaboration with the Illinois Resource Center and ARRA funding, will be held April 4 and 5, 2013 at the Marriot Hotel and Conference Center in Normal, IL
- Program Standards and Quality is only one committee of the new Illinois Early Learning Council Restructure. Members were reminded to visit the website to learn more about the work of the other committees and how all work meets the goals and objectives of the Illinois Early Learning Council.
  - If interested in the work of these committees, please contact Theresa Hawley or Kim Collins for more information.

**12 PM**  
**Adjourn**